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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Persecution of Greek Catholic Church

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Pomoryany, a town of four thousand people.

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The town had three churches; one, the Greek Catholic church

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with about 24 hundred parishioners; another, a Roman Catholic

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church with eight hundred parishioners; and the third a Jewish Synagogue, with about one thousand members.

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parishioners were deeply religious and out of the 24 hundred there were only about 40 who were pro-Communist, but these were young persons.

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Persecution did not begin until 1939, at which time the Soviets were moving cautiously as there was a strong support of the church by the people.

6.

The Soviets began using propaganda against the church and religion. People were told by members of the NKVD to go ahead and attend church services, but in such manner that the people knew that they would be under surveillance. Many school teachers of our town and other professional people were afraid to go to church as they were afraid to suffer the consequences.

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Late in 1939 the church property of about 40 acres was confiscated by the Soviet government. Taxes were levied on the church thereafter.

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There was also a tax on the church and on its collections. Taxes were increased to the extent that the church unable to pay, and in 1941 told that if the taxes were not paid be held responsible. However, nothing happened as the German army occupied town in 1941.

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many of the priests who could not pay the taxes were arrested and taken away, presumably to Siberia.

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-2-

10. ☐ one of the elementary schools in town ☐ taught a class in religion, but this course was cancelled by the government in 1940. Students who were from eight to 13 years of age were being taught Leninism-Marxism, Soviet Constitution, and the advantages of being a member of the Komsomol.

11. There were many Communist sympathizers of Jewish origin in our town, but ☐ did not ☐ participate in any demonstrations.

12. Around Christmas in 1939 ☐ the NKVD ☐ take all ☐ church records, and deliver them to the NKVD headquarters in Zolochiv, about 17 kilometers north of Pomoryany. The headquarters was located in the center of the city. Before the Soviet occupation this was a Polish municipal court. It also had a jail which at that time contained about eight hundred persons.

13. When ☐ turning ☐ church records over to an NKVD official ☐ asked for a receipt. ☐ told that a Soviet official's word was good enough.

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16. It was very easy for anyone to enter NKVD headquarters, but on leaving the building it was necessary to have an exit card signed by a member of the NKVD.

17. In 1941 before the Germans entered ☐ about 11 of my parishioners were taken away by the Soviets. These were people who were in professions, such as medicine, engineering, or veterinary medicine.

18. ☐ town did not have any industries and the nearest railroad was eight kilometers north of our town.

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